

NEWS RELEASE March 5, 2018 Contact: Crescent Gallagher Communications Director 304/558-3708; 304/380-3922 (cell) cgallagher@wvda.us

75th ANNUAL WV HAM, BACON AND EGG SHOW AND SALE TO BE HELD MARCH 12

Charleston, W.Va. – The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) is encouraging business owners, state elected officials and members of the public to attend the 75th Annual West Virginia FFA Ham, Bacon and Egg Show and Sale at the State Capitol. The event will take place Monday, March 12th, 7:00 p.m. in Building 7 on the Capitol Grounds.

"This event marks a year's worth of hard work. These young people have learned a lot throughout that process," said West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. "Valuable lessons are not the only benefit. All proceeds from the sale go towards future projects or endeavors."

Numerous FFA members from across West Virginia will enter their ham, bacon and eggs into the state sale. A dozen eggs usually go for \$750 to \$1,000. A champion ham can bring in \$6,000 to \$8,000 and a slab of bacon, up to \$1,500. The money raised goes right back to the winners to use for next year's pig or perhaps a college savings account.

"Plain and simple, the average age of a farmer is going up. We must inspire the next generation of farmers," said WVDA Deputy Commissioner Joe Hatton, a Gilmer County FFA alumni. "FFA teaches valuable skills like leadership, all the while inspiring young people to peruse STEAM careers."

In addition to the sale held March 12th, several FFA chapters across the state will choose to hold their own local ham, bacon and egg sales during the month of March.

For more information on a local ham, bacon and egg show and sale, call your local FFA chapter. For details about the state show, contact WVDA Communications Director Crescent Gallagher at cgallagher@wvda.us or 304-558-3708.